

From: Jim Begley
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:08am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'd like to register my comments on the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case. I'm a software developer with 18 years of professional experience in the industry.

Simply put, I'm strongly opposed to the proposed settlement.

There are a number of specific problems that I see, but a couple of the biggest are: the proposed settlement's enforcement mechanism is inadequate; the mechanism for release of information to independent software vendors is flawed; and the definitions used in the proposed settlement are too narrow or too misleading to be effective.

In general, I feel the proposed settlement does not go far enough to punish Microsoft for its past anti-competitive practices, nor does it go far enough to prevent Microsoft from repeating the behavior.

Today, Microsoft is again attempting to use its monopoly in desktop operating systems to establish monopolies in other areas, areas in which there are better third-party products available, just like it did with web browser software. Some examples include audio and video media players (Windows Media Player), online authentication (Microsoft Passport), and instant messaging (MSN Messenger). If these Microsoft products obtain dominant market positions in the next few years, it will NOT be because of technical superiority, more features, or better customer support. It will simply be the result of Microsoft's bundling of these applications with each operating system sold and limiting access to competing applications through aggressive licensing tactics.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jim Begley

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